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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Thirteenth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 173rd meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 26 March 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Cisternas Reyes

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

This record is subject to correction. Participants wishing to submit corrections during the session of the Committee are asked to hand them, in typewritten form, to the Secretary of the Committee. A consolidated corrigendum to the summary records covering the closed meetings of the Committee will be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 11.05 a.m.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities and other competent bodies (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Lachwitz** (International Disability Alliance) said that the inclusion of provisions for persons with disabilities in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 adopted in March 2015 was to be welcomed. However, his organization continued to call for the insertion of additional references to persons with disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda and the introduction of a global indicator framework capable of providing data disaggregated by disability, particularly in relation to the key targets of poverty eradication, universal health coverage, social protection and education. He noted with concern that the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners failed to take proper account of the rights of persons with disabilities and called on the Committee to address the issue.

2. **Ms. Minkowitz** (World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) said that the Committee's general comment No. 1 on article 12 and its jurisprudence on article 14 served to strengthen the absolute prohibition of substitute decision-making, involuntary detention and non-consensual psychiatric treatment. In that connection, she welcomed the progress made by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention towards the prohibition of involuntary detention based on psychosocial or intellectual disability in its draft basic principles and guidelines on remedies and procedures on the right of anyone deprived of his or her liberty by arrest or detention to bring proceedings before court. She regretted, however, that the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment regarding the removal of certain rules of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners that failed to comply with the Convention had not been implemented. For example, even in its revised form, rule 82 perpetuated an authoritarian approach to health matters that would have a negative impact on prisoners with disabilities. Steps should be taken to ensure that the Rules as a whole were brought into line with the Convention.

3. She called for closer consultation between the Committee and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing to ensure that the draft convention on the rights of older persons complied fully with the standards contained in articles 12, 14 and 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She also urged the Committee to stress the importance of community-based support mechanisms for persons with disabilities, pursuant to article 19, in its constructive dialogues with States parties.

4. **Ms. Lachowska** (Disability Council International) said that her organization continued to conduct a variety of activities to support the work of the Committee, such as the organization of seminars in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe to promote the Convention, the preparation of alternative reports on State party reports for the Committee's consideration and the provision of assistance to ensure the participation of representatives of the disability community at the Committee's sessions.

5. **Mr. Kofmel** (Autistic Minority International) said that his organization was grateful for the Committee's recommendation on addressing online hate speech that targeted autistic children and adults, contained in its concluding observations on the initial report of New Zealand (CRPD/C/NZL/CO/1), as a result of which Google had removed search algorithms and autocomplete suggestions that had generated offensive search suggestions. In view of the fact that the current session would coincide with World Autism Awareness Day, his organization would be marking the occasion by organizing events to highlight the increasing promotion of unproven medical procedures, such as stem cell treatment, that claimed to cure autism and other conditions and disabilities.

6. **Mr. Aichele** (German Institute for Human Rights) said that his organization fully supported the Committee's work and had prepared alternative reports and oral statements on the main issues facing persons with disabilities in Germany.

7. **The Chairperson** thanked the representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and other competent bodies for their informative statements and said that the Committee would take into account their comments and suggestions.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 11.40 a.m.